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## **Rola Programu Rodzina 500 plus**

### **THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY 500 PLUS PROGRAMME IN RURAL AREAS**

#### Summary

The aim of this paper is to determine the role of the Family 500 plus Programme in rural areas, taking into account the *ratio legis* of the Polish Act on State Aid in Raising Children. It has been stressed that for many years the pro-family policy has been gravely neglected in Poland and the legal, economic and systemic reasons for the current demographic crisis have been presented.

It is concluded that the legislative initiative is certainly a step towards a more pro-family policy and despite a number of defects it is significant to rural areas. About three fourths of families in agricultural households will receive support for the first child and hence the programme may support achievement of the demographic goal of the Act, and may also constitute an important tool in combatting poverty and increasing the birth rate in women, thus accelerating generation exchange in agriculture. It must be noted though, that the same impact will not be observed in other vocational groups. Thus the 500 plus Programme should be seen as an ancillary, but certainly not key tool in Poland's demographic policy.